

Appln No. 09/641,930

Amdt date November 19, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 19, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has allowed claims 4, 6, 10-15, 18, 20 and 22-30. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 31, 34 and 35. The Examiner has objected to claims 32, 33 and 36, but has indicated in paragraph 6 of the Office Action that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent grounds to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner did not mention claim 8, but claim 8 should be allowed as well because it depends upon allowed claim 11.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 4, 6, 8, 10-15, 18, 20, 22-30, 32, 33 and 36 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of the application.

In order to expeditiously place this application in condition for allowance, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims 1, 2, 31, 34 and 35 and have rewritten objected to claims 32 and 36 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. In particular, Applicants have rewritten claims 32 and 36 in independent form to include the limitations of canceled base claim 31, and have left claim objected to claim 33 dependent on claim 32, which is now allowable. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Please note the following informalities. In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 27-30, but these claims have been formally allowed as Applicants have already corrected the informalities in their prior response. Applicants believe paragraph 3 represents a clerical error.

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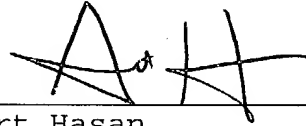
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Further, Applicants have not received confirmation that the Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed June 22, 2004. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the IDS and return an initialed copy of Form 1449.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request allowance of pending claims 4, 6, 8, 10-15, 18, 20, 22-30, 32, 33 and 36, and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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